

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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FIELD DIARY

Mr. *Herron Bailey*
Virginia & North Carolina
(Official title.)

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1931

Nov. 2 - Left Washington by Bus
for Richmond, Va. at 8:15 AM.

Arrived Richmond at 11:30 and went
to Game Commission office at Capitol
building. Saw Mr. Hart, secretary
of commission and Mr. Hanley,
in charge of game propagation -
Also met Mr. Bursley from
Asheville, S.C., and together we
drove to Ashland where we
picked up the local game warden
~~Edmund Winston~~, and went over
some of the best deer range in
Hanover and Caswell counties.
Visited the Wake school, a large
colored upsur school for boys
with several thousand acres
as a wild life sanctuary.

Found deer tracks abundant
in fields where cow peas and black peas
were raised and many left as the ground

M. D. Hart, Executive Secretary

Game Commission - Richmond

Chas. O. Handley, in Charge of Game

Propagation and management

Edmund Winston, Game Warden of

Hanover Co. at Ashland

Julian Spears, Middlethian, Chesterfield Co.

Dr. Jones, Petersburg, "

Jeff. Birdsong, Desputants, Va.

Warden in Prince George Co.

J. B. Cherry, Hickory, R. F. D. 1.

In Sismar swamp. will get deer at that place

W. C. Rives, Supervisor, McKimney, Va.

Charles M. Griggard, Sheriff, former warden

Emporia, Va.

Nov. 3 - Picked up Warden
Julian Spears at Richmond
and went over much of
Chesterfield Co. south of Richmond
Found much good country for
deer and wild turkeys and
several places where deer tracks
were common and Burleigh
saw four deer in the swamp
~~about~~ north of Appomattox River.
Lots of tracks in field of cow peas
and clay beans & soy beans.
Last fall 125 deer, mostly bucks
were killed in Chesterfield Co.
and there seem plenty of deer
left. Only bucks have been
killed for 7 years but there
is no overabundance of deer
as yet.

Dr. Jones thinks one deer a
year without regard to sex

Would be better and if necessary
only one month of open season.
There are not half enough deer
and they should be increased.
He thinks 50 does were killed
last year and not reported.
All hunting is with dogs on
runways and there is no danger
of shooting men in this way.
The timber and brush are so
dense that still hunting is
useless with the present number
of deer and dogs are justified
here if anywhere.

Dr. James thinks only turkey
gobblers should be killed as
there are few turkeys and as many
or more gobblers than hens.

Mr. Handley suggests raising
and releasing turkey hens to
satisfy all the wild gobblers and
thus increasing the wild stock.

Gray foxes are very common and many fresh tracks were seen yesterday and today. This may account for scarcity of wild turkeys.

The Game department raised and are releasing about 4000 wild turkeys this year.

Dr. Jones urges them not to release any gobblers.

Visited The Quail Farm and Mr. Coleman showed us over it. They have a very complete equipment with a modern incubator holding 2000 quail eggs and pens for 7000 quail. They have sold 5000 this year and have 2000 on hand in good condition. Also 6 pairs of grouse from Oklahoma and 6 mountain quail from Oregon. Also 6 Ruffed Grouse.

Mr. Calman has made
a complete success of raising
pobawitis and can produce them
in any numbers desired.

His hens lay up to 90 eggs and
125 eggs apiece. One has
been laying for 8 years

He wants to try sage grouse,
Mearns quail or California quail
I want him to try Franklin's
sharp tailed grouse and scaled
quail

Returned to Richmond Hotel
in evening.

Nov. 4. Started in morning
for Pinetop George Co. and
picked up Mr. J. H. Birdsong
at Disputanta, county warden,
and took him with us all day
in covering the country
for deer. Visited several game
refuges and struck the banks
of the James River at several
points.

Found cypress abundant
along the river shores and in
swamps near the river.

Found tracks of many gray foxes,
one red fox, raccoon, opossum,
skunk, muskrat and plenty
of deer.

Found most deer tracks in
peanut fields where the deer
were feeding on the stacked
peanuts or those scattered on ground.

Peanuts are the principal crop on thousands of acres, and bear well on this sandy soil.

Found a threshing machine in one field threshing out the peanuts. They had many sacks full and were turning out a big stream of peanuts.

They are said to be worth about 2 cents a pound or 50¢ a bushel. Many are fed to hogs and they are said to give the Smithfield Ham its muscadine flavor.

Over 100 deer were killed in Prince George Co. last fall and they are still numerous.

Nov. 5. Thursday

Drove through Hopewell to Cabin Point in ~~Prince George~~^{Swain} Co. where we picked up Mr. Savage, the local warden, and with him visited several good deer sections near the James River. Found many deer tracks in peanut fields and corn fields and at one point opposite Jamestown Mr. Jones showed us over his place where there were lots of deer in the woods, swamps and a big marsh. The marsh was all tracked and trailed by deer and they are said to lie out in the tall bent grass and thrice square grass, Scirpus americanus?. Mr. Jones says he caught 250 muskeats last fall in this marsh of about 40 acres.

Came back to Claremont where
Dr. Spears has many kinds
of pheasants and about 100 bobolinks
and two wild turkeys.

Then drove south to Waverley
and to near Homeville where we
saw warden Honeyman in
Sussex Co. where the most
deer were killed last fall of
any county, about 170.

He says the deer are still
abundant but not so many
as last fall.

He was hauling peanuts and
picking cotton.

Drove to Courtland and on to
Suffolk at 9 P.M. and stopped
at the Elliott Hotel.

Saw many bats at Homeville.

Turkeys, quail and squirrels
are pretty common.

An owl caught a cottontail in wood.

A warm day and very pleasant.
The country produces mostly
peanuts, some corn and cotton
but little else.

Good roads everywhere.
Sandy and level country and
most roads hard surface.
Many fine old places dating
from colonial times, but
less of country cultivated
than before the civil war.

Old places date back to 1607.

A beautiful country that
should be full of game.

Nov. 6 Friday, Suffolk.

To Portsmouth to get Shirley Hope
game warden there who brought us down
to the ditch where we met game warden
Cushings of Suffolk Co.

Got the local warden, P. Cherry, with
a motor boat to take us up the ditch
to Lake Esplanade.

About 14 miles where he is the
care taker for the company that owns
the swamps and a game warden by
special appointment, a very fine
fellow of the rugged type suited for
such work and with good ideas of
wild life protection.

He showed us lots of deer tracks
and trails and told us much about
the hunting. Has promised to save
skulls of deer and bear for me
and also other, raccoon, mink
and other animals. Says there are
many swamp rabbits and are now tracks.

Jerico Ditch + Lake Bonaville

<i>Pinus taeda</i>	abn. outside
<i>Taxodium</i>	abn
Alder	most abundant tree
Sweet gum	abn.
Sour gum	"
<i>Fraxino</i>	" & large
Holly	"
<i>Thuja</i>	" along lake shore, inside
<i>Salix</i>	a few
<i>Prunus</i>	"
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	abn. good leafy fruit
<i>Myrica</i>	"
<i>Vitis</i> 2	" & loaded with grapes
<i>Blackberry</i>	"
<i>Eucalyptus atropurpurea</i>	com
<i>Smilax</i> - 3	abn.
<i>Vaccinium</i>	com
<i>Galaxaura</i>	"
<i>Lonicera</i>	abn.

<i>Rhus glabra</i>	com
" <i>typhaloidea</i>	"
<i>Azalea</i>	"
<i>Lonicera</i>	"
<i>Phytolacca</i>	abn. & entire leafy branches
<i>Magnolia</i>	com.
<i>Persimmon</i>	a few
<i>Elm</i>	"
<i>Sambucus</i>	abn.
<i>Quercus</i>	"
<i>Ferns</i> - galax	"
<i>Sphagnum</i> & other mosses	abn
<i>Mosses</i> - many & numerous	
<i>Baccharis</i>	along lake shore,

Waves so high we could not go on the lake nor see the ducks said to be on it. Water the color of good coffee and good to drink. Picturesque old stumps & trees along shore.

was much surprised to find a *Thuja* along edge of lake as well as abundance of cypress and *Tupelo*.
Gum. Big shiny *Aralia* is abundant and often 20 feet tall.

Vegetation is dense and wild fruit and berries in great abundance. It is a paradise for bears and deer and other life.

The lake is held about 20 feet above the canal levels and ~~the water~~ by a dam on the ditch and the water can be let out at any time to fill the canals.

Figs are bearing and castor oil plants, *Cannas* and *chrysanthemums* are in blossom and free from signs of frost tho there was heavy frost at Portsmouth last night.

Abundance of grapes on ground that seem to be a small *Muscadine*.

In PM drove back to
Portsmouth, Suffolk, and west
to Courtland and Emporia,
where we stopped for the night.

Found there are not many deer
in Southampton Co. which is
well settled with no extensive wild
areas. Couldnt find George Vicks
the warden but talked with others
and got some good information
regarding deer and other
game.

Country as usual, dense
forests except on the cleared
farms where cotton, corn and
peanuts are the main crops.
Soy beans and cow peas are
much raised for hogs and the
hogs generally allowed to harvest
their own crop.

Smithfield hams are made in
this region and supposed to be the best.

good flavor to the peanuts
on which the bugs feed.
Many thrashing machines were seen
at work in the peanut fields and
many truck and wagon loads
of sacked peanuts were being
hauled to market.

The price is very low, about
2 1/4 cents a pound where they
are generally 3 to 5 cents.

Beautiful weather but chilly
toward night.

Nov.
Aug. 7, Saturday
Waited at Emporia for
Mr. W. C. Rives of McKinney
to join us and go over
some of the counties the
district of which he is
superintendent.

We first went into
Greenville Co. where warden
Charles M. Grizzard took
us over some well stocked deer
range in his county, both
southeast and northwest of
Emporia.

We then crossed over into
Linwood Co. where Mr.
Rives took us over extensive
forest areas well stocked with
deer and with a few wild turkeys
and quail. Both sides of the
Notaway River are covered with
great forests valuable for both game
and timber.

Heavy frost in morning but
very pleasant day as it has
been on the whole trip.

Much of this land could
be bought for 4 or 8 dollars
an acre with standing
timber enough to pay for it
and still leave a good
young growth for game cover.
Some excellent refuges
could be found in this
part of the state if there
were available funds to pay
for them.

Left Mr. Rives at Se Witt
at 5 PM and reached Petersburg
at 5:30, in time for Burlington
to catch a train home to
Ashville, N.C. Mr. Handley
and I came on to Richmond
where I stopped for the night
at The Richmond Hotel while
Handley went on to his home in
Ashland, some 14 miles to the north.

Nov. 8 Sunday,

Wrote all day as fast as I could on my report and finished the parts on deer and bear. Will have to stay till Monday morning to see Mr. Hart and talk over the game situation with him.

Another beautiful day.

Nov. 28, 1931

Started for Asheville
North Carolina with the three
beavers from Victor Evans'
Acclimation Park for the
Pisgah National Forest and
Game Refuge.

Had much trouble in catching
them as they had dug far under
the hill and under the road
but were finally cornered
in their old board house.

The upper incisors of the
two original young from
Pennsylvania were so long
from lack of any wood to eat
that they had to be sawed off
so they could eat.

Nov. 29 Sunday.

Arrived at Ashville 8:20
am and went to Battery Park
Hotel. Was met by Tom
Burlaigh and Dick Hildebrand
at train and we went to the
Forest Supervisors office,
Mr. Mattoon, and with
him inspected the ponds
on Paint Creek but one
had been emptied and the
other was to be so on for the
winter.

Examined the creek for places
to put the beavers but did
not find any very good
place where they would
stay without furring,
so drove over to the
Biltmore Place where they
have some good ponds on
their Game Refuge.

Picked out the Bear
Pond of about 6 acres as
the best place and built
a beaver house on the
island and put the beavers
in it. When they came
out they were not frightened
and explored about quietly
and seemed to like the
pond and the abundant
food of sedges, grass,
and small brush.

The place is nearer to
Ashville than was the
one on Pisga and the
beavers will be well protected.
Mr. Cuyil was much
interested and offered all
the help and cooperation
possible in caring for
and studying them and
gives out right the freedom

of his 30 000 all places
at all times of day or night.

When the beaver increase
they will be plenty for all
the ponds and streams about
us but as they are
all females they will not
increase much until we
get a male to put with
them.

I was over the Bitter
place before dark and saw
about 200 deer and one
flock of a dozen wild
Turkeys. Dick Hildebrand
shot one for a specimen for
Burlingame and offered to get
him a deer or anything
he wanted.

Saw two gray foxes that
had been caught in steel
traps and were quite tame.
Their eyes at midday showed
very narrow slits of the vertical
pupils, narrower than a cat's
eyes. In one the iris was
dark brown, in the other a
yellowish gray or dull greenish
color.

Nov. 30 Monday,

Went up Mt. Mitchell
with Burling & Mr. Featherman
and saw some of the country
in spite of a rainy day.

Fairly good road nearly to
top and some camps up near
the summit.

Many trees & bushes new
to me and a real Canadian
Zone Cap to the mountain.

Saw a red squirrel and a few
Ruffed grouse. Lots of mouse
sign, some mules & horses.

Snowshoe rabbits appear to be
on top of the mountain and
Burling will try to get us some.

Some bears are killed on the
mountain each year and many
deer.

Back to Ashrill in time to
catch a 5:30 train for
Richmond Virginia.
Had to change cars at

J. P. Wall,
Supt. State Game Farm at
Boulevard, Va.

~~Nov. 30~~ - Arrived in
Richmond, Virginia at 8:15
AM and went to the Game
Commission. Mr. Charles
Handley took me out to the
State Game Farm in afternoon
where I saw three tamed deer
tame wild turkeys and a lot of
the 3500 bobwhites raised
in pens last summer.
Got one doe skull and made
a catchment trap for getting
mink and weasels and skunks as
well as cats and coons and
rats around the quail and
pheasant pens.

Back to Richmond for the
night but made arrangements
by telephone for a deer hunt
tomorrow.

Dec. 2, Wednesday -

Took 8 AM bus for McKinney where I joined Game Supervisor W.C. Rives on a deer hunt.

He had out 17 men and two packs of hounds in a big timber and swamp country where deer tracks were common.

The men with shot guns were scattered out along old wood roads for a mile or more and one man put out the dogs. Three deer were jumped but no one got a shot.

Saw a few deer tracks, a few gray fox and one turkey track. No other game except cottontail tracks.

A cold but pleasant day.
Returned to Richmond in evening.

Dec. 23

Took bus for Washington
at 8:30 AM & arrived at noon.
Cool and pleasant.

Dec. 30 Wednesday,

Left Washington 3:05 PM for Harrisburg, Pa. to select a male beaver to add to the 3 females placed on the Biltmore Estate a month ago.

Dr. Winneoff has arranged for a trip to get the beaver in morning.

Got a pleasant room in the Penn Harris Hotel, 709, at \$2:50 without bath but hot and cold water & toilet, and all modern equipment.

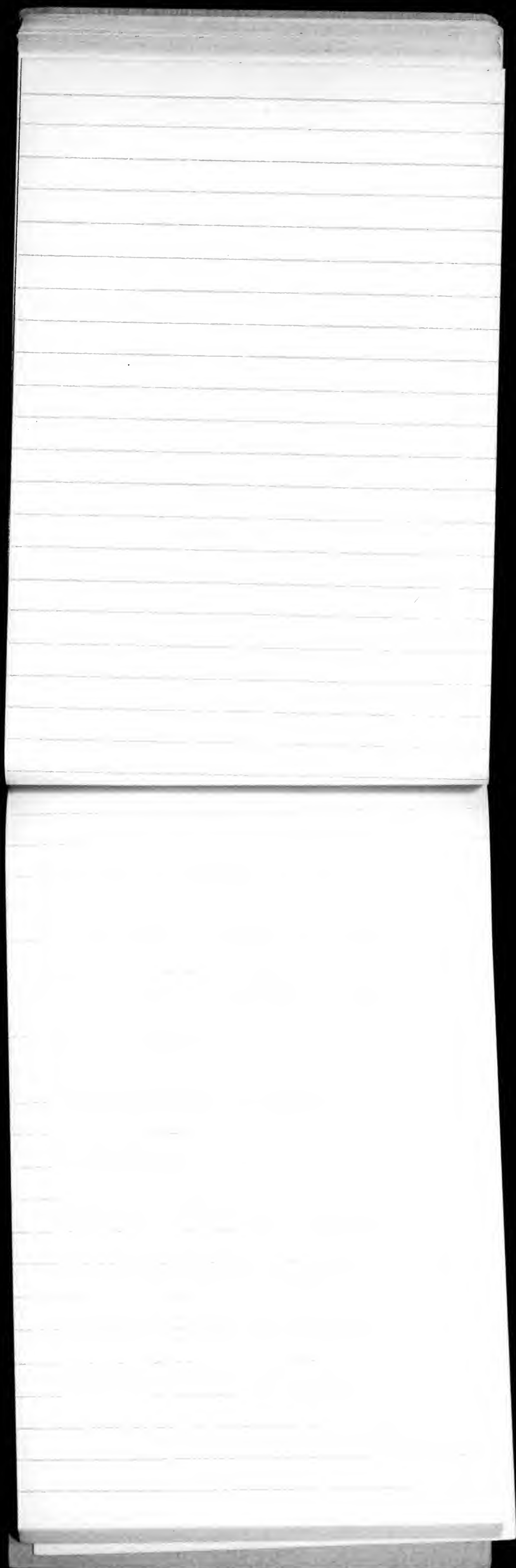
A pleasant day and no snow.

Dec. 31

Left Harrisburg 9 AM and drove west of Lewistown to the place where they took 7 beavers in boxes and crates, two good sized and 5 young of the year. The largest, a 3 year old was a female, the next largest, a two year old or rather a 19 months old, was a male and I took it.

Shipped it by express to Town Burleigh at Asheville, N.C. from Lewistown at 1:20 PM.

Drove back to Harrisburg and caught 3:18 PM train for Washington, arriving at 6:40 PM.



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Odontaspilus virginianus

Fairly abundant in the low
country of Virginia southeast of
Richmond.

